

Catholic Courier

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With the Approbation of the

MOST REVEREND JAMES EDWARD KEARNEY, D.D.
Bishop of Rochester

The CATHOLIC COURIER has my most enthusiastic approval. A diocesan newspaper has become an essential part of the program of Catholic action in every diocese. The CATHOLIC COURIER should be read in every Catholic home in the diocese. I find it hard to understand how any Catholic can be so indifferent as to what is transpiring in his church throughout the world as to rely upon unreliable sources of information or even to seek no information whatever. Let us face a brief digression: "The CATHOLIC COURIER is every Catholic's home!"

— JAMES E. KEARNEY, Bishop of Rochester

HOLY FAMILY OBSERVANCE

Close, indeed, to the Holy Family of Bethlehem, will be the members of each home who as a family unit receive Holy Communion this day and celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. Father and mother, young men and women, boys and girls, they receive this day not as individuals, but as integral parts of an organization founded by God, blessed by God's grace, guided by His spirit, and developed according to the model of the Holy Family of Bethlehem and Nazareth.

Mary was called by God to her office as Mother of the Holy Family. Fitted by nature and grace for her high vocation, she was first to welcome into the world Him Whom the Father destined to be the Child of the Holy Family. St. Joseph was marked for his dignity as Father of the Holy Family, summoned to this high calling by divine vocation, and ever mindful of his obligation to fulfill well every duty connected with his position. In Bethlehem, in Nazareth, the Holy Family presents itself as a model for every Christian Family; presents its members as models for the imitation of the members of every Christian Family.

In their Holy Communion this morning, each member of the family will ponder God's goodness as manifested in the institution of the family, God's wisdom as shown in the guarantee of assistance and protection and affection given each member through the graces of the common household, God's fostering care as delegated to father and mother for the children of their home, God's loving kindness in consecrating the love of man and wife through the blessed gift of children.

Following the example of the three Holy Ones of Nazareth, building on the model of the Holy Name of Nazareth, imitating all three Members of the Holy Family, our families will find protection against pagan infiltrations into the Christian tradition, against loss of that touch of heaven that should be in every Christian home. May Jesus and Mary and Joseph be in our homes and in our hearts on this Happy Feast and in all the days of our earthly sojourn.

THREE WISE MEN

Twelfth Night in former years held the place in nativity observance that now falls to Christmas. Little Christmas was the name by which our parents knew it. The Epiphany is the liturgical title of this 6th day of January, which commemorates the threefold manifestation of Christ to the world, in the visit of the Three Kings, in His first miracle at the beginning of His public life at Cana of Galilee where He changed water into wine, in His baptism by St. John at which the heavens opened revealing the Holy Ghost resting over His head in the form of a dove while the voice of the Father was heard declaring "This is My beloved Son."

Christ's manifestation to the world is the answer to all the prophecies and the expectation planted in man's heart by the divine promises. At Bethlehem, the shepherds joined Mary and Joseph in giving the first earthly welcome to Jesus, with the Angels of the Nativity speaking and singing the heavenly welcome at His coming. His own chosen people first saw Him, soon to be joined by those summoned by us afar from all the nations of earth to adore Him and to offer Him homage and adoration in their gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. The other two manifestations or Epiphanies heralded His appearance to men at the beginning of His ministry as Redeemer of Mankind. He is the answer to man's prayer, the fulfillment of man's hopes, the realization of God's promises.

As the life of a Christian must be like the life of Jesus, as the imitation of Christ must be our daily task, as all our striving must be to make ourselves "other Christs," so our fidelity to this duty should make our earthly careers so many new Epiphanies. Manifestations of the power and goodness of God as shown forth in Jesus Christ.

FOR THE CAUSE!

Powerful impetus to renewed patriotism and more energetic striving to help to the best of our ability the country's war effort, is given by the reports that come back from all the fighting fronts on land, on sea, in the air. Inspired love of country, deep attachment to duty, brave response to the call to protect and guard all that Americans hold dear, are urging our forces on to what must be ultimate victory. Our prayers, our sacrifices, our obedient and ready cooperation with every home effort, speak clearly of the support we would give the brave men at the front.

Reports of casualties begin to come in to sadden us at the thought of the early deaths of those who have made the supreme sacrifice for liberty. Our own boys, proud of their family and school and parish and community, with us so short a time ago, have given their lives that God's gifts of liberty and independence may not perish from the earth. There is a glory in the bravery and courage with which they faced the danger, in the readiness with which they accepted all that the chances of war had to offer them. May God give rest to their souls!

Our task at home is to give ever growing support to our men in arms. Patriotic fidelity to every obligation that rests on us as free men, eagerness to give all we can to the cause in our war production work and in our constant purchase of the stamps and bonds that furnish our heroes with the material of war, are the marks of all who

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Diocesan Recordings

A Victorious New Year to all

Starting the New Year, the Knights of Columbus are adopting a special devotion which can be taken up by any two groups of seven individuals. The Superior, Chaplain of the K. of C., the Rev. Mgr. Leo M. Finn is calling upon Catholic men in his organization to begin devotion in an especial manner to Saint Michael the Archangel, our natural guardian in the work which the Knights of Columbus strive to perform. The prayer to St. Michael, which the Knights have adopted, as a special prayer at this time, is known to all. It is in the prayers at the conclusion of the Mass. Remember this?

"Saint Michael the Archangel defend us in battle; be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil; rebuke him, O God, we humbly beseech Thee, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host by the divine power, drive into hell Satan and the other evil spirits who roam through the world seeking the ruin of souls, Amen."

The Supreme Chaplain suggests that every Knight of Columbus learn this prayer by heart; that he add it to his daily prayers at night. This department suggests that all readers do the same. Saint Michael's protection is sorely needed in a world stirred to the depths by emissaries of Satan.

We do not know his name, but we met him in a religious goods store. He told us that he has carried a Rosary for over forty years. That he has recited it consistently in times of trial in his family, in periods of joy. We have learned that he is a convert. He felt abashed in displaying his zeal for the Rosary outwardly but he should not have been. It was justifiable pride in a devotion which all of us should take up and practice as consistently.

That home training has not been neglected among the young men in the armed forces was brought home to us strikingly at the K. of C. Open House on New Year's Day. The young men wearing the uniforms of the U. S. Army and Navy who called on the knights that day manifested to all with whom they came in contact that they had come from good homes and knew how to act on any occasion. These boys, and they are still but boys, most of them, can well be taken into any home. Their appreciation for what is done for them well repays the effort called for.

QUERIES and REPLIES

Why Should I Pray?

You should pray because prayer is one of the greatest privileges that you possess. To talk with God or to His Saints in Heaven with the certainty and assurance that your every word is heard—what privilege could measure up to that?

People remember having merely greeted the President of our country or any other famous character and treasure the memory of the occasion forever. But every word of prayer is an infinitely greater privilege because God is infinitely higher than the most renowned person that ever lived.

You should pray because prayer is absolutely necessary for living a good life and for saving your soul.

He who prays will surely be saved; he who does not pray will just as surely be lost. Man prays and God hears. Prayer is the connecting link between the free will of man and the free gifts of God. God expects you to express your desires in daily prayer. If you ask you shall not receive.

"Whatever you ask for in prayer, believing, you shall receive." (Matt. 21: 22, comp. Matt. 7, 7, Luke 11, 9.)

You should pray because prayer is the easiest task upon which your salvation depends. Anyone can speak, form words into sentences, give expression to petition, respect, adoration and gratitude.

Addressing these things to God is the sum and substance of prayer. There are some things helpful for salvation that not every one can do. But there is no one, sick or well, baptized or not baptized,

STRANGE BUT TRUE

Little-Known Facts for Catholics

By M. J. MURRAY

ITALY has more BISHOPS than FRANCE, GERMANY, SPAIN, PORTUGAL, POLAND and the BRITISH ISLES TOGETHER.

SHE ACTUALLY HAS OVER 40% OF EUROPEAN SEES.

Perpetual Motion! A pendant attached to a bracelet on the arm of a Madonna in the CHURCH of the IMMACULATE, NAPLES, SWINGS UNCEASINGLY FOR NO ASCERTAINABLE REASON. TEST PENDANTS SWUNG NEARBY HAVE ACTED QUITE NORMALLY.

Along The Way

A Great Little Booklet

By REV. DANIEL A. LORD, S.J.

Volume Number 27!

I wonder if that doesn't come close to establishing a record. A lot of us have, in our time, turned out a book or two. A great many have even hopefully begun this series or that, carrying it perhaps, as far as Volume Number 3 or 4.

But Volume Number 27! That's something different. And it took Father Francis P. LeBuffe, S.J., to bring My Changeless Friend to this high number in his still unended series.

It's a long time since I first stumbled over My Changeless Friend in what proved to be Volume 1. A particularly holy nun loved the booklet. She marked up a copy and gave it to me. I was amazed as I read the simple way in which this priest I had not as yet met made the love of God seem easy and inevitable. I read along with a feeling that I was being introduced to Christ the Savior by one who knew Him intimately and who wanted to share that priceless friendship with thousands of others.

Thousands! That was the only part of my impression which was understated. It turned out that Father LeBuffe (who with the years has become a near and dear friend) was introducing the Savior to millions of readers. The Messenger of the Sacred Heart carried the series in uninterrupted flow. The volumes came off the press regularly: Volume 2, 3 and 4 . . . Volumes 15, 16, 17 . . . and now Volume 27.

My Changeless Friend has been a sort of adult education course for everyone in the knowledge and love of Christ. It's the kind of booklet that thousands carry in their pockets or in a handbag. It has rested within easy reach upon crowded desks. Men and Women, with no time for prolonged spiritual reading, have made one of these booklets a *Vade Mecum*, and from it read swiftly and sweetly of their souls and their souls' dearest Lover. Friends have mailed it in small envelopes to uncounted friends. Men have thumbed it. Holy contemplatives have used it as their meditation book. I'm sure that today it goes in the packs of many an American man in service.

So we bow our welcome to My Changeless Friend, Number 27. We bow our respectful congratulations to the priest who has taught thousands to pray and all his readers to know and love the Savior more deeply and more personally.

Proof Positive

My good friend, Father Talmadge, dropped in recently with a

Catholic or non-Catholic, who cannot pray. Whosoever you be pray to God every morning and evening and you will be saved. (From the pen of Father Richard Felix, O.S.B., Defenders of the Faith, Conception, Missouri.)

story that he claims is so old it is guaranteed to be new. In fact, it's about the famous Indian missionary, Father DeSmet.

The missionary had been working for months on a particularly bad Indian, and getting nowhere rapidly. But each time they met, DeSmet reminded the old fellow that for him "outside the Church there was no salvation."

Finally the Indian admitted his insuperable difficulty. He had stolen, and from one of the Protestant missionaries.

"Go give it back," commanded DeSmet, and reluctantly, but bent now upon sincere conversion, the Indian went his way. He found the Protestant preacher and in a dialect that cannot be imitated, he made his offer.

"He stole from you. Here the two dollars."

The minister smiled happily. But the Indian was glum.

"You give me receipt."

"What?" demanded the minister.

"You give me receipt," the Indian repeated.

"Why in the world do you want that?" the minister asked.

"Because," grunted the Indian, "me get to Heaven. Big Chief Peter he say to me, 'You stole.' I say, 'Sure, but I give back.' He say, 'Where the receipt?' I got no receipt. Then you think I want spend my time looking all over hell for you?"

Just A Matter of Viewpoint

The young soldier and his bride of yesterday (writes a correspondent) clung to a strap and to each other in the crowded car. Their love was as fresh and new as the ring on her finger, and they were oblivious to the world. Someone got up and left a single seat. But the bride declined to leave the side of her young husband even to sit down.

Near them stood a very smart-looking woman in her early forties, very well dressed, and very sure of herself.

The soldier looked around and spotted her. He gestured to the seat magnificently.

"Sit down," he said in a loud voice. "Go ahead, and take that seat. When my wife gets to be as old as you are, I hope somebody will get up and give her a seat."

The woman in her trim and vigorous forties nearly exploded with unconcealed rage. But she laughed. And the couple sank once more into the oblivion of their love.

Music of the Sky

The highest order of music we never heard: it is called the music of the spheres, the grand symphony made by the planets and other heavenly bodies coursing around the sun and which Milton says is heard only by God and the angels.